



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 3, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Philip L. Browning, Director
Department of Public Social Services

Board of Supervisors
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Fifth District

RESPONSE TO THE APRIL 19, 2011 BOARD MOTION TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REDUCE COSTS FOR ADMINISTERING THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM (AGENDA ITEM 70-A)

On April 19, 2011, your Board passed a motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services, in consultation with County Counsel, to report back to your Board as part of the final budget in June 2011 with a comprehensive plan to reduce costs for administering the General Relief (GR) Program.

In response to your Board's mandate, the following documents are attached:

Attachment I: Menu of Options

- Attachment I-A: GR In-Kind Assistance
- Attachment I-B: Sanction Policy
- Attachment I-C: Property and Asset Limit
- Attachment I-D: Residency Verification
- Attachment I-E: Elimination of the Shared Housing Deduction
- Attachment I-F: GR Time Limit Change To a Maximum of Six Months on Aid for Employable Participants
- Attachment I-G: Additional Eligibility Workers for the GR Program

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Attachment I-H: Additional Case Managers for the GR Opportunities for Work (GROW) Program

Attachment I-I: Administratively Unemployable Category

Attachment I-J: Additional GR Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (SSIMAP) Staff

Attachment I-K: Mental Health Treatment for Participants in GR SSIMAP

Attachment II: Comparison of Los Angeles County's GR Policies to other Counties and Legal Mandates

Attachment III: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy Efforts in Los Angeles County Fact Sheet

Attachment IV: Cost Savings Resulting from GR SSI Advocacy Efforts

As directed by your Board, County Counsel is developing a legal analysis of the County's obligation with regard to "in-kind" assistance options and will separately submit it to your Board.

WTF:PLB:ljp

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Community and Senior Services
Health Services
Mental Health
Probation
Public Defender
Public Health
Sheriff's Department

General Relief Program.bm

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REDUCE COSTS FOR
ADMINISTERING THE GENERAL RELIEF (GR) PROGRAM**

MENU OF OPTIONS

Option A: General Relief In-Kind Assistance

The County could limit cash assistance to GR homeless participants who are temporarily/administratively unemployable and therefore not pursuing work or federal disability benefits. Impacted individuals would receive an in-kind housing benefit of \$266 and a cash payment of \$20. This option would be implemented in phases as follows:

- Phase One would impact homeless individuals who have been temporarily/administratively unemployable and received GR for 34 out of the most recent 36 months.
- Phase Two would impact homeless individuals who have been temporarily/administratively unemployable and received GR for 31 out of the most recent 36 months.
- Phase Three would impact homeless individuals who have been temporarily/administratively unemployable and received GR for 28 out of the most recent 36 months.
- Phase Four would impact homeless individuals who have been temporarily/administratively unemployable and received GR for 24 out of the most recent 36 months.

The months of GR assistance counted would begin 24 months prior to the month of Board approval; therefore, the first group of homeless participants would exhaust their eligibility to cash assistance nine months following the month of Board approval.

Impacted Population: Homeless GR participants with Temporary Unemployable status and participants deemed Administratively Unemployable. As of May 2011, there were 32,848 Temporary Unemployable and 8,576 Administratively Unemployable GR participants. A large percentage of these individuals are homeless. The number of temporarily unemployable participants is expected to decrease as a result of the County's implementation of the enhanced disability assessments.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REDUCE COSTS FOR
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Option B: Sanction Policy

The County could change the existing 0/30/60-day progressive sanction penalty to a 30/60/90-day or 60/120/180-day progressive sanction penalty when GR participants refuse or fail to comply with the GR employable requirements without good cause. The Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code permits sanctions up to 180 days; however, this option would require a County Code change.

Impacted Population: A substantial percentage of the 43,892 GR employable participants would be impacted.

Option C: Property And Asset Limit

The County could change the County Code to reduce the maximum allowable property assets for GR participants. The change could be:

- Approved participants could have no more than \$500 of personal property including cash on hand or in bank accounts, in addition to their cash grant. (Current policy: Approved participants can have no more than \$500 of personal property in addition to a maximum of \$1,500 cash on-hand or in bank accounts)

Impacted Population: The number of participants that will potentially be impacted is unknown, but likely to be very small.

Option D: Residency Verification

The County could require all GR applicants/participants to provide verification of their residency in Los Angeles County for at least 15 days as a condition of eligibility. Individuals who cannot provide verification of residency in Los Angeles County will not be aided for the first 15 days following their application for GR. Current policy defines a Los Angeles County resident as a person who has lived in Los Angeles County for at least 15 calendar days and intends to reside here permanently or indefinitely. A homeless individual's statement on the application is currently sufficient to establish residency, unless other objective evidence substantiates that the individual is not a Los Angeles County resident. Under this option, third-party documentation would be required.

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Impacted Population: The 60% of the GR caseload who self-identify as homeless. As of March 31, 2011, the total GR caseload was 108,524.

Option E: **Elimination of the Shared Housing Deduction**

The County could eliminate the current shared housing deduction which prorates the GR grant based on the total number of people sharing housing.

It is our belief that one of the reasons GR applicants state they are homeless is to avoid the shared housing deduction. Currently, the GR grant is reduced when a GR participant is living in the same residence as family or friends. This contributes to the high rate of reported homelessness among GR participants. Elimination of the shared housing deduction should prevent this from occurring. As a result, more individuals will disclose their residence, thereby, making it easier to verify whether the applicant meets the 15-day residency requirement. For those who still self-declare as homeless, it will be easier to ensure that they live in LA County and to provide appropriate services.

Impacted Population: 60% of the GR caseload who self-identify as homeless (approx. 65,000).

Option F: **GR Time Limit Change To a Maximum of Six Months on Aid for Employable Participants**

The County could pursue a State legislative change to W&I Code Section 17001.6(f)(1) to enable the County to impose a Time Limit of no less than six months out of a 12-month period for employable participants (instead of the current 9-out-of-12 months), and still maintain the GR grant for all participants at \$221/month, instead of \$272/month.

Impacted Population: 42,396 Employable GR participants enrolled in the GROW program.

Option G: **Additional Eligibility Workers for the General Relief Program**

The County could approve funding to support additional Eligibility Workers (EWs) to alleviate the current high GR EW caseloads and allow eligibility staff to more effectively administer GR program rules to ensure participants who are ineligible for GR benefits do not continue to receive these benefits.

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MENU OF OPTIONS

Impacted Population: Unknown number of approved GR participants.

Option H: Additional Case Managers for the GROW Program

The County could increase the number of GAIN Services Workers in the GROW Program, to alleviate the current high GROW caseloads and enable GROW staff to effectively serve GROW participants and to increase employment and ensure that participants comply with the GROW Program rules.

(A recommendation which partially addresses this option is included in the CEO FY 2011-12 Final Changes Board letter. Specifically, that recommendation involves the transfer of 50 GAIN Services Workers and nine GAIN Services Supervisors from the GAIN program to the GROW program for FY 2011-12, which will alleviate the GROW staffing shortage and address a reduction in state funding for the CalWORKs Single Allocation.)

Impacted Population: 42,396 Employable GR participants enrolled in the GROW Program.

Option I: Administratively Unemployable Category

The County could revise the current Administratively Unemployable (AU) criteria to eliminate eight of the current 13 AU criteria. The Administratively Unemployable (AU) Category is a status designated for individuals who are unable to work for reasons other than disability. This category is not mandated by the W&I Code, County Code, or any lawsuit. This is a category that the County created to assist individuals whose circumstances are perceived as barriers to employment.

Impacted Population: 8,313 individuals in the current AU category. Under this policy option, it is estimated that the AU category will be reduced to approximately 2,068 individuals.

Option J: Additional GR SSIMAP Advocacy Staff

The County could hire 10 additional General Relief Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (GR SSIMAP) Advocates and 1 GR SSIMAP Supervisor for a Pilot to test whether a reduced caseload would secure a sufficiently higher number of SSI approvals and/or obtain faster SSI approvals to offset the net County cost of the additional GR SSIMAP staff. The GR SSIMAP provides advocacy services to help physically and mentally disabled GR

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ADMINISTERING THE GENERAL RELIEF (GR) PROGRAM**

MENU OF OPTIONS

participants apply for SSI, obtain early SSI approval, and become self-sufficient. If approved, individuals are eligible for up to \$850 on SSI versus \$221 on GR. Additionally, SSI recipients are entitled to Medi-Cal.

Impacted Population: GR SSIMAP staff and GR participants pursuing SSI benefits.

Option K: Mental Health Treatment for Participants in General Relief Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program

The County could approve funding to provide Mental Health Treatment to potentially SSI-eligible GR participants who have mental health illnesses, but lack sufficient treatment documentation to support their SSI applications. SSI applications based on mental health disabilities are more difficult to prove than those based on physical disabilities. Such applications often require a consistent, well-documented mental health treatment history over an extended period of time to have a good chance to be approved. Providing Mental Health Treatment to these GR participants would be beneficial to both the participant and the County, since it would improve the participant's probability for SSI approval.

Impacted Population: GR participants with mental health disabilities applying for SSI, who lack adequate documentation of their disabilities.

OPTION A: GENERAL RELIEF IN-KIND ASSISTANCE

Attachment I-A

Current Policy

GR Policy:
N/A

Applicable Statutes:

W&I Code 17001.5(a) – The board of supervisors in any county may adopt a general assistance standard of aid, including the value of in-kind aid which includes, but is not limited to, the monthly actuarial value of up to forty dollars (\$40) per month of medical care, that is 62 percent of a guideline that is equal to the 1991 federal official poverty line and may annually adjust that guideline in an amount equal to any adjustment provided under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3 for establishing a maximum aid level in the county. This subdivision is not intended to either limit or expand the extent of the duty of counties to provide health care.

W&I Code 17001.5(c) – A county may provide aid pursuant to Section 17000.5 either by cash assistance, in-kind aid, a two-party payment, voucher payment, or check drawn to the order of a third-party provider of services to the recipient. Nothing shall restrict a county from providing more than one method of aid to an individual recipient.

Case law:

Oberlander v. County of Contra Costa, 11 Cal. App. 4th 535: [U]nder [§ 17000.5], the county may include the value of in-kind aid from non-county or non-section 17000 programs in setting its standard of aid.

Bell v. Board of Supervisors, 23 Cal. App. 4th 1695: County may value in-kind benefits *actually provided* or *realistically available* to recipients and may reduce its shelter component accordingly. However, County may not reduce its general assistance grant to a willing recipient by the value of benefits not received and not shown to be available.

Cleary v. County of Alameda: the state Court of Appeal held that Alameda County could not require a landlord/property owner to execute a W-9 form as a condition of payment of the housing portion of the GA grant to the GA participant's landlord/property owner. The basis for the court's decision was primarily that housed GA participants could well become homeless as a result of their landlord/property owner's refusal to execute a W-9.

Policy Option

Description of Option:

The County could limit cash assistance to homeless GR participants who are temporarily/administratively unemployable and not pursuing work or federal disability benefits, pursuant to W&I Code Section 17001.5, which authorizes a county to "provide aid pursuant to Section 17000.5 either by cash assistance, in-kind aid, a two-party payment, voucher payment, or check drawn to the order of a third-party provider of services to the recipient." Specifically, the County could adopt the following policies:

- Homeless GR participants who are designated as temporarily and/or administratively unemployable may only receive 34 months of cash assistance in a 36-month period.
- Homeless GR participants who have exhausted their limit of 34 months of cash assistance in a 36-month period and continue to be designated as temporarily or administratively unemployable shall be offered in-kind housing assistance with a value of \$266/month plus a cash grant of \$20 for incidentals for a total of \$286/month. (Prior to the July 2011 8% CalWORKs grant reduction, the GR non-mandate relief grant would have been \$297. Effective July 1, 2011, the

minimum GR non-mandate relief grant would be \$272, because the minimum non-mandate relief GR grant level is tied to the CalWORKs grant for a family of one. This option reflects total assistance of \$286/month, rather than \$272/month, to align with the current benefit for GR participants who choose to live in Board and Care facilities: \$266 for housing and \$20 for incidentals.)

- The in-kind housing assistance may be used to generate a payment for housing to any property owner or manager providing housing to the homeless GR participant for any or all of the month for which the in-kind assistance is issued.
- This policy shall apply to GR assistance commencing 24 months prior to the month of Board approval; therefore, the first group of participants will exhaust their eligibility to cash assistance nine months following the month of Board approval. (24 months before the month of Board approval + month of Board approval + 9 months after Board approval = 34 months).
- The time limit on cash assistance for temporarily/administratively unemployable participants shall be reduced from 34 out of 36 months to 31 out of 36 months effective 15 months following the month of Board approval, 28 out of 36 months effective 21 months after Board approval, and 24 out of 36 months effective 27 months after Board approval. The Board could delegate authority to DPSS and the CEO to postpone the reduction in the time limit on cash assistance for temporarily/administratively unemployable participants, if DPSS and the CEO determine that there is insufficient housing where participants can utilize their in-kind assistance (including shelter and/or motel beds).

Homeless participants may find their own housing to use their in-kind housing assistance, which may include Board and Care facilities. Landlords may accept in-kind housing assistance on a monthly basis and be paid via a direct vendor payment by the County. For homeless participants who remain temporarily/administratively unemployable, are unable to secure their own housing, and wish to use the in-kind housing assistance, DPSS would provide a shelter or motel bed for the number of days that could be funded with the participant's in-kind assistance. Motel beds would only be available if no shelter beds were available.

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 150 currently closed shelter beds could be available for homeless GR participants using in-kind housing assistance. These shelters are 12-hour shelters and do not provide shelter services 24 hours a day. The monthly in-kind assistance amount would provide homeless GR participants approximately two weeks of shelter housing; therefore, the 150 beds that would be made available would provide housing for approximately 300 participants each month. The County could secure these 150 beds by using one or a combination of the following options:

1. Master Leasing -- A master lease for 150 beds countywide which must be prefunded and the County will be obligated to pay for shelter beds whether all beds are used or not.
2. Set Aside Beds --In order to secure the 150 beds throughout the County, the County must reserve a predetermined number of shelter beds for homeless GR participants to use with their in-kind housing voucher. The County will pay a nominal fee for this predetermined amount of beds whether they are occupied or not. The County will pay for each subsequent individual bed used, up to the 150 bed maximum.

Impacted Population:

Homeless GR participants with Temporary Unemployable status and participants deemed Administratively Unemployable. As of May 2011, there were 32,848 Temporary Unemployable and 8,576 Administratively Unemployable GR participants. A large percentage of these individuals are homeless. The number of temporarily unemployable participants is expected to decrease as a result of the County's implementation of the enhanced disability assessments. Effective May 16, 2011, the County

	<p>implemented the enhanced disability assessments for GR participants, which replaced the cursory employability screening. Through the enhanced disability assessments, the County can better identify the true nature of an individual's disability or lack thereof. We anticipate that through this process, fewer individuals will be designated as temporarily unemployable and more individuals will be designated employable and be referred to GROW or permanently disabled and referred to the County's SSI and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program for assistance with filing for SSI benefits. Additionally, if Option I is adopted, the number of Administratively Unemployable (AU) participants will be reduced substantially. The AU Category is a status designated for individuals who are unable to work for reasons other than disability.</p>	
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant:</p> <p>Increase the number of GR participants who exit GR with employment or SSI/veterans disability benefits – This policy should result in an increase in the number of GR participants pursuing work or disability benefits, and an increase in the resources available for housing subsidies and other services to assist GR participants pursuing employment or disability benefits. As a result of both of these impacts, there should be an increase in the number of GR participants exiting GR with employment or disability benefits.</p>	
	<p>County Outcomes:</p> <p>Reduce NCC Expenditures – Homeless GR participants who exhaust their eligibility to cash assistance under this proposal will either: (1) begin pursuing work or disability benefits to maintain their cash assistance eligibility; (2) utilize the in-kind housing assistance; or (3) not utilize the in-kind housing assistance. The County will realize immediate NCC savings for participants in category 3, and indirect NCC savings for participants in category 1 who exit GR with employment or disability benefits.</p> <p>County Savings: It is estimated that the County would realize net savings of \$768,797 for every 1000 GR participants who convert to the in-kind grant structure.</p> <p>Of the net GR savings which result from this policy each quarter, 50% would be transferred to the GR Anti-Homelessness Account to support expansion of GR Housing Subsidies for GR participants pursuing work or federal disability benefits and, if necessary, to pay for other costs associated with GR Restructuring. The other 50% of the net GR savings would be transferred to the County General Fund. The savings which result from this policy each quarter shall be assumed to continue for the three subsequent quarters; however, the amount transferred to the GR Anti-Homelessness Account shall not exceed 50% of the total reduction in GR assistance expenditures each quarter, compared to the same quarter of the preceding fiscal year. This will ensure that, if there are increases to the GR caseload which offset the savings from this policy, there will be a corresponding offset to the amount transferred to the GR Anti-Homelessness Account.</p>	
	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated net savings of \$770,000 for every 1,000 GR participants who exhaust their cash assistance eligibility and become eligible only for in-kind assistance. • Potential increase in the number of GR participants pursuing work or disability benefits. • Reduction in caseload. • Additional funding for housing subsidies for GR participants pursuing work or disability benefits, through reinvestment of 50% of the net savings from this option. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some landlords may not accept the in-kind assistance. • Shortage of available housing that participants could secure with the \$266 proposed for housing. • Securing enough shelter beds to accommodate all GR participants using the in-kind assistance who would want a shelter bed may be a challenge (though motel beds would be available as a fall back). • Available shelters are operational for 12 hours/day only. • The in-kind housing voucher is not enough to pay for a whole month in a shelter.

OPTION B: SANCTION POLICY**Attachment I-B****Current
Policy**

GR Policy: 40-105.2 Employable individuals (including the legal spouse and minor children) are ineligible for GR in accordance with the 0/30/60-day progressive penalty criteria when they refuse or fail to comply with the GR employable requirements without good cause. When there is no good cause and it is the first sanctionable occurrence within the prior 12-month period, a 0-day penalty is imposed; when it is the second occurrence, a 30-day penalty is imposed; and when it is the third occurrence, a 60-day penalty is imposed.

Applicable Statutes: County Code: 2.102.120 General Relief - Employment requirements for employable applicants and recipients.

A. The Department shall establish employment, job training, work project or welfare-to-work requirements for employable General Relief applicants and recipients. The eligibility of any General Relief applicant or recipient who fails or refuses to comply with any of such requirements will be discontinued, and such applicant or recipient, as well as any member of the family of such applicant or recipient residing with such applicant or recipient, shall not receive or be eligible for General Relief for a period of zero, 30 or 60 days from the last date for which a General Relief payment has been made, depending upon such applicant's or recipient's previous record of such non-compliance within the 365-day period preceding the effective date of the penalty to be imposed, except where such applicant or recipient has good cause for such failure or refusal.

W&I Code: 17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 17000.5, the Board of Supervisors of each County, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do any of the following:

- 3) Discontinue aid under this part for a period of not more than 180 days with respect to any recipient who is employable and has received aid under this part for three months if the recipient engages in any of the following conduct:
- A. Fails, or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a qualified job training program, participation of which is a condition of receipt of assistance.
 - B. After completion of a job training program, fails, or refuses, without good cause, to accept an offer of appropriate employment.
 - C. Persistently fails, or refuses, without good cause, to cooperate with the County in its efforts to do any of the following:
 - (i) Enroll the recipient in a job training program.
 - (ii) After completion of a job training program, locate and secure appropriate employment for the recipient.
 - D. For purposes of this paragraph, lack of good cause may be demonstrated by a showing of any of the following:
 - (i) The willful failure, or refusal, of the recipient to participate in a job training program, accept appropriate employment, or cooperate in enrolling in a training program or locating employment.
 - (ii) Not less than three separate acts of negligent failure of the recipient to engage in any of the activities described in clause (i).

- 5) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), discontinue aid to, or sanction, recipients for failure or refusal without good cause to follow program requirements. For purposes of this subdivision, lack of good cause may be demonstrated by a showing of either (A) willful failure or refusal of the recipient to follow program requirements, or (B) not less than three separate acts of negligent failure of the recipient to follow program requirements.

Lawsuits: Los Angeles City v. Los Angeles County (07/22/1987 – 07/30/1991) - Case no: C655274

The lawsuit alleged that the County arbitrarily denied GR to needy persons by pre-established budgetary criteria, which it met through complex computerized and manual caseload control systems. The case was settled with various GR program changes. One of the agreements was to change the penalty for non-compliance with employment requirements from 60 days to a progressive penalty of 0/30/60-day sanction periods. The settlement was effective August 1, 1991, and it expired in 2001. Although the settlement expired, the 0/30/60 day progressive penalty sanction system has remained in effect.

Policy Option	<p>Description of Option: The County to implement one of the following two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employable individuals (including the legal spouse and minor children) are ineligible for GR in accordance with the 60/120/180-day progressive penalty criteria when they refuse or fail to comply with the GR employable requirements without good cause. When there is no good cause and it is the first sanctionable occurrence, a 60-day penalty is imposed; when it is the second occurrence, a 120-day penalty is imposed; and when it is the third occurrence, a 180-day penalty is imposed. Once the 180-day penalty has been imposed, all other subsequent sanctions are 180 days. The sanction cycle will restart at the 1st sanction level after 12 months of no sanctions. This option is consistent with the W&I Code; however, it will require a County Code change. ▪ Employable individuals (including the legal spouse and minor children) are ineligible for GR in accordance with the 30/60/90-day progressive penalty criteria when they refuse or fail to comply with the GR employable requirements without good cause. When there is no good cause and it is the first sanctionable occurrence, a 30-day penalty is imposed; when it is the second occurrence, a 60-day penalty is imposed; and when it is the third occurrence, a 90-day penalty is imposed. Once the 90-day penalty has been imposed, all other subsequent sanctions are 90-days. The sanction cycle will restart at the 1st sanction level after 12 months of no sanctions. This option is consistent with the W&I Code; however, it will require a County Code change. <p>As of March 31, 2011, the GR employable caseload was 43,892.</p> <p>Impacted Population: Employable GR participants.</p> <p>The estimated impact is unknown; however, for calendar year 2010 data on sanctions is as follows: total sanctions: 38,079; average monthly sanctions: 3,173. This data represents sanctions at all three sanction levels (0/30/60), and includes more than one sanction for some participants. The break out of the 2010 sanction data by level is as follows: 0-day sanction = 27,599; 30-day sanction= 6,750; 60-day sanction= 3,730.</p>		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Participant/Applicants: Participants will have longer sanction periods.</p> <p>County Outcomes: Cost savings expected as a result of individuals being penalized for longer periods. Additionally, longer sanctions may result in increased compliance with General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) requirements and more GR exits due to employment and/or a decrease in the number of sanctioned participants who re-apply for GR.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1220 1411 1388"> <tr> <td data-bbox="228 1220 820 1388"> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be more agreeable to comply with Program rules to avoid longer sanctions. • Increase in the number of individuals exiting GR due to employment. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Reduction in Net County cost. • Elimination of churning in the GR caseload which results from current 0-day sanction. </td><td data-bbox="820 1220 1411 1388"> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will have longer sanction periods. • Participants will have to wait longer to be able to participate in GROW after being sanctioned, so they may be unemployed longer. </td></tr> </table>	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be more agreeable to comply with Program rules to avoid longer sanctions. • Increase in the number of individuals exiting GR due to employment. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Reduction in Net County cost. • Elimination of churning in the GR caseload which results from current 0-day sanction. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will have longer sanction periods. • Participants will have to wait longer to be able to participate in GROW after being sanctioned, so they may be unemployed longer.
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be more agreeable to comply with Program rules to avoid longer sanctions. • Increase in the number of individuals exiting GR due to employment. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Reduction in Net County cost. • Elimination of churning in the GR caseload which results from current 0-day sanction. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will have longer sanction periods. • Participants will have to wait longer to be able to participate in GROW after being sanctioned, so they may be unemployed longer. 		

OPTION C: PROPERTY AND ASSET LIMIT**Attachment I-C****Current Policy****GR Policy:**

GR 42-201.2 – Personal property is described as "belongings" or interests in belongings, which may be easily transported or stored (e.g., stocks, savings bonds, etc.). Personal property may also be a valuable right, such as an unpaid debt.

GR 42-211.1 – Except as otherwise described below, personal property worth up to \$500 for each aided person may be kept.

- At intake, for each adult, a maximum of \$50 (\$100 for family cases) cash on hand, negotiable instruments (e.g., savings bonds, stocks, etc.), and/or money in a checking or savings account may be kept. The entire case is ineligible when an individual/family has more than the maximum.
- For each GR approved case, regardless of the number aided, a maximum of \$1,500 cash on hand, negotiable instruments, and/or money in a checking or savings account in addition to their share of the GR grant may be retained (or the GR grant plus income, if they have income).

Applicable Statutes:**Welfare & Institutions Code**

W&I Code 17107. The board of supervisors may establish its own policies with reference to the amount of property, if any, a person shall be permitted to have while receiving assistance, to the end that, so far as it is possible, an applicant for public relief shall be required to apply his own property to his support.

W&I Code 17111. An applicant or recipient shall be permitted to retain, without effect on his eligibility for aid or the amount of aid to which he is otherwise entitled, the tools of his trade necessary to continue or seek employment and an automobile of reasonable value needed to seek or maintain employment in order to enable the applicant or recipient to become self-supporting. The board of supervisors shall determine what tools of the trade may be retained as necessary and the reasonable value of an automobile used to seek or maintain employment.

County Code 2.102.080 General relief--Eligibility--Personal property limitations.

- Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall be eligible for general relief who possesses or owns any interest in personal property, regardless of the type or description, the total value of which exceeds \$500.00. Except as otherwise provided, the term "value," as used in this section, means the current market value without regard to the amount of any encumbrances.
- No applicant shall be eligible for general relief if, at the time of application, such applicant possesses or owns cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts the total value of which exceeds \$50.00, and no applicant who resides with one or more members of such applicant's family where any such other member is an applicant, shall be eligible for general relief if, at the time of application, such applicant and one or more such other members who are applicants possess or own cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts, the total value of which exceeds \$100.00.

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| | <p>C. No recipient shall remain eligible for general relief if such recipient owns cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts the total value of which exceeds the sum of such recipient's monthly general relief basic budget plus \$1,500.00, and no recipient who resides with one or more members of such recipient's family, where any such other member is a recipient, shall remain eligible for general relief if such recipient and one or more such other members who are recipients possess or own cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts, the total value of which exceeds the sum of the monthly general relief basic budgets of such recipient and such members plus \$1,500.00.</p> <p>D. If an applicant or recipient has no means to pay for burial expenses other than a life insurance policy or policies, then the total cash surrender value of such insurance policy or policies, up to a maximum of \$500.00, shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> <p>E. No person shall be eligible for general relief if such person or, where applicable, any member of such person's family residing with such person where such member is an applicant or recipient, owns any interest in a motor vehicle, provided that this requirement shall not apply if such person and, where applicable, such member own an interest in only one motor vehicle and such motor vehicle has a retail value of \$4,500.00 or less, and provided further that such value of such one motor vehicle shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> <p>F. Tools of the trade of an applicant or recipient necessary to obtain or retain employment shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such tools are determined by the department to be those customarily required for the specific trade of such person.</p> <p>G. No person shall be eligible for general relief who owns any interest in a mobile home, provided that this requirement shall not apply with respect to an interest in such property used as such person's residence if the value of such property does not exceed \$15,000.00, and provided further that such value of such property used as such person's residence shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> <p>H. No person shall be eligible for general relief who owns any interest in a motor home or house trailer, provided that this requirement shall not apply with respect to an interest in such property used as such person's residence if the value of such property does not exceed \$11,500.00, and provided further that such value of such property used as such person's residence shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> <p>I. Any currently employed person who is on leave of absence due to disability or illness and who has funds in a retirement system may retain such funds in such retirement system, and such funds shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such person retains all such funds in such retirement system and that it is medically determined that such person will be capable of returning to work within six months after the date of application for general relief.</p> <p>J. Household equipment, furnishings and personal effects of an applicant or recipient shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such items of property are determined by the department to be necessary to provide the minimal essential needs of such person, and are within reasonable values established by the department.</p> <p>K. The value of an interment space, crypt or niche to be used for the interment of an applicant or recipient, up to a maximum of \$500.00, shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief. Relocation benefits for displacement from a dwelling actually owned or rented by an applicant or recipient received from a public entity pursuant to Section 17409 of the Welfare and Institutions Code of the state shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> <p>M. Earned income tax credits received by an applicant or recipient shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.</p> |
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Policy Option	<p>Description of Option: Reduce the property and asset limits for GR eligibility, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved recipients can have no more than \$500 of personal property, including cash on hand or in bank accounts, in addition to their cash grant. 		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Impacted Population: Entire GR Caseload. The number of participants who will potentially be impacted is unknown, but likely to be very small.</p> <p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: Reducing the property limits will cause some participants to be ineligible for GR benefits.</p> <p>County Outcomes: Some cost savings will occur with the increase in terminations based on the change in property and asset limits. Caseload reduction will occur at quarterly reporting and at yearly redetermination (called Annual Agreement) as benefits will be terminated for those participants who possess more property and assets than allowed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="423 1024 1437 1192"> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1024 927 1192"> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight Net County cost savings. • May result in more GR application denials. </td><td data-bbox="927 1024 1437 1192"> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed property limit is much too low to help GR participants become self-sufficient. • Minimal GR caseload reductions. • Effect on costs may be marginal due to small number of GR participants who would be impacted by this option. • May discourage GR participants from reporting their property and assets. </td></tr> </table>	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight Net County cost savings. • May result in more GR application denials. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed property limit is much too low to help GR participants become self-sufficient. • Minimal GR caseload reductions. • Effect on costs may be marginal due to small number of GR participants who would be impacted by this option. • May discourage GR participants from reporting their property and assets.
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight Net County cost savings. • May result in more GR application denials. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed property limit is much too low to help GR participants become self-sufficient. • Minimal GR caseload reductions. • Effect on costs may be marginal due to small number of GR participants who would be impacted by this option. • May discourage GR participants from reporting their property and assets. 		

OPTION D: RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS VERIFICATION**Attachment I-D****Current Policy****GR Policy: GR 42-402.1 – Residence Requirements**

To meet the residence requirement, the individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a documented immigrant entitled to reside in the U.S. permanently, or an immigrant who has been granted temporary residence status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, and
- Be a resident of the County for at least 15 calendar days and intends to remain permanently or indefinitely. A homeless individual's statement on the application is sufficient; unless other objective evidence substantiates that the individual is not a Los Angeles County resident. Persons who reside in a mobile home, motor home, camper, boat, or houseboat may be eligible to GR as long as the vehicle is parked/docked at a residential address. Residency can be established and aid approved on or after the 15th calendar day of residency within the County.

Applicable Statutes:**W&I Code**

17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do any of the following:

(A) Adopt residency requirements for purposes of determining a persons' eligibility for general assistance. Any residence requirement under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 days.

Los Angeles County Code

2.102.150 General relief--Legal residence--Determination by department.

At the time of application for general relief, and at other times as deemed necessary by the department, but not less than once annually, the department shall determine, wherever possible, the legal residence of each applicant and recipient. Each applicant and recipient shall have the burden to demonstrate that such person is a legal resident of the county of Los Angeles when requested to do so by the department. If it is determined by the department that such person is not a legal resident of the county of Los Angeles, then such person may be eligible for general relief only as provided in Sections 2.102.210 and 2.102.220 of this chapter. (Ord. 11983 § 1 (part), 1979; Ord. 4099 Art. 9-B § 160.14, 1942.)

Policy Option	Description of Option:
	<p>The current verification of residency requirement is lenient. Per current GR Policy, the applicant's/participant's statement is sufficient to establish that the 15-day residency requirement has been met. As of March 2011, Los Angeles (L.A.) County had a total caseload of 108,524, of which 60% reported being homeless; this number exceeds the entire homeless population in L.A. County reported by LAHSA, which as of November 2010 was 48,053.</p> <p>L.A. County's GR population also exceeds the population in the surrounding counties by a high margin: San Diego County has a GR caseload of 1,011; Orange County 623; San Bernardino 519; and Riverside 180. There may be individuals who are receiving aid who do not meet the County's residency requirement and actually live in other California counties. This goes undetected because many GR participants apply for GR as homeless applicants, thereby making it challenging for the County to verify whether the applicant meets the 15-day residency requirement.</p> <p>To help ensure that the County is not aiding non-County residents, this option is to strengthen the current residency policy to require that GR applicants/participants provide verification of residency prior to receiving GR benefits. Verification of residency will be required at intake and annual redetermination (Annual Agreement). The residency verification requirements for non-homeless GR applicants/participants are proposed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utility bills in the GR applicant's name; 2. Landlord's statement; 3. Bus ticket stubs showing the date of arrival in Los Angeles County; or 4. California identification issued in the last 6 months and displaying a L.A. County address. <p>The residency verification requirements for homeless GR participants are proposed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homeless service agency's statement indicating that individual has been receiving services from them for the last 15 days or more; 2. Shelter service provider's statement indicating that the individual has been residing at the shelter for the last 15 days or more; 3. Receipts from shelter service providers or homeless service agency; 4. Bus ticket stubs showing the date of arrival in Los Angeles County; 5. California identification issued in the last 6 months and displaying a L.A. County address; 6. Letter from any County agency/Community Based Organization which verifies that the GR applicant has been receiving services in L.A. County for the last 15 days or more. <p>If a GR applicant fails to provide adequate documentation to verify his/her residency status, then the GR applicant will not be aided.</p>

Impact of Policy Option	<p>At any point during the GR application process or post-approval of GR benefits, if there is any evidence that raises questions regarding an applicant's/participant's residency in L.A. County, the GR applicant/participant will be required to provide additional verification (over and beyond that which was required at initial application) of residency in order to receive GR benefits.</p> <p>Example #1:</p> <p>If an applicant provides a California ID (as part of meeting the basic GR eligibility requirement) which shows a Riverside County address, then applicant/participant will need to provide additional evidence to support his/her residency status.</p> <p>Example #2:</p> <p>If the State's MEDS System reveals that the applicant had received CalFresh benefits in another County the month prior to application for GR benefits in L.A. County, then the applicant will need to provide additional evidence to verify residency.</p>	
	<p>Impacted Population: 60% percent of the GR caseload who self-identify as homeless (approx. 65,000).</p>	
	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant/participants will have the burden to prove residency status. 	
	<p>County Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GR caseload will be reduced when the non-L.A. County residents are unable to provide residency verification to secure GR benefits. 	
	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of non-L.A. County residents applying for and receiving GR. • Net County cost savings. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing proof of residency might not be easy, especially for the homeless population. However, other counties currently require proof of residency.

OPTION E: ELIMINATION OF THE SHARED HOUSING DEDUCTION**Attachment I-E****Current Policy**

GR Policy: GR 44-207 - A GR Unit is considered to be in a shared housing situation in the following instances:

- Lives with others.
- The GR Unit lives on the same property with others who either:
 1. Sleep in the same quarters or with the GR Unit, or
 2. Purchase and prepare food together with the GR Unit.

A GR Unit is considered to be in shared housing if it does not meet the conditions for living alone.

Note: A GR Unit is either a person or married couple who are eligible to receive GR benefits. The GR household includes all persons living at the same address, excluding those receiving State or federal public assistance (CalWORKs, SSI/SSP, CAPI).

GR Policy: 44-208 - When a GR Unit shares housing, the GR grant for the household size is prorated by the total number of people sharing housing. This computation is automated on LEADER.

Applicable Statutes:**W&I Code**

17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do any of the following:

(1) (A) Adopt residency requirements for purposes of determining a persons' eligibility for general assistance. Any residence requirement under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 days.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize the adoption of a requirement that an applicant or recipient have an address or to require a homeless person to acquire an address.

(2) (A) Establish a standard of general assistance for applicants and recipients who share housing with one or more unrelated persons or with one or more persons who are not legally responsible for the applicant or recipient. The standard of general assistance aid established pursuant to Section 17000.5 for a single adult applicant or recipient may be reduced pursuant to this paragraph by not more than the following percentages, as appropriate:

(i) Fifteen percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing with one other person described in this subparagraph.

(ii) Twenty percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing with two other persons described in this subparagraph.

(iii) Twenty-five percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing with three or more other persons described in this paragraph.

(B) Any standard of aid adopted pursuant to this paragraph shall constitute a sufficient standard of aid for any recipient who shares housing.

	<p>Los Angeles County Code</p> <p>2.102.180 General relief--Basic budget table.</p> <p>The department shall furnish cash aid or material support, or both, to each eligible indigent in accordance with the general relief basic budget table adopted by the board of supervisors. The basic budget table shall provide for the minimal essential needs of indigents. (Ord. 11983 § 1 (part), 1979; Ord. 4099 Art. 9-B § 160, 1942).</p>
Proposed Policy	<p>Description of Proposal:</p> <p>The County could eliminate the current shared housing deduction which prorates the GR grant based on the total number of people sharing housing.</p> <p>We believe that one of the reasons GR applicants state they are homeless is to avoid the shared housing deduction. Currently, the GR grant is reduced when a GR participant is living in the same residence as family or friends. This contributes to the high rate of reported homelessness among GR participants. Elimination of the shared housing deduction should prevent this from occurring. As a result, more individuals may disclose their residence, thereby making it easier to verify whether the applicant meets the 15-day residency requirement. If this proposal is adopted, GR Intake Eligibility Workers (EW) will explain this rule change to new applicants and Approved EWs will explain this new rule to existing GR participants at redetermination. It is the hope of the County that by emphasizing that there will be no penalty for disclosing an address despite living with others, GR participants might be persuaded to provide their actual residence address. Additionally, for those who still self-declare as homeless, it will be easier to ensure that they live in L.A. County and to provide appropriate services.</p> <p>As of March 2011, L.A. County had a total caseload of 108,524 of which 60% reported being homeless; this number exceeds the entire homeless population in L.A. County reported by LAHSA, which as of November 2010 was 48,053. L.A. County's GR population also exceeds the population in the surrounding counties by a high margin (San Diego County has a GR caseload of 1,042, San Bernardino 490, Riverside 183, and Orange 626).</p> <p>DPSS believes that of the 60% of GR participants who apply as homeless, a substantial number may be housed; however, their residence is not reported to avoid the shared housing deduction so they can receive the full GR grant.</p> <p>Impacted Population:</p> <p>GR participants who acknowledge being in shared housing.</p> <p>A percentage of the GR participants who self-identify as homeless (approx. 65,000). There are currently 418 participants in shared housing. The direct cost of eliminating the deduction is \$14,806.</p>

Impact of Proposed Policy Change	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: Non-homeless participants will have better access to services if they report their address because their assigned DPSS case manager will be able to communicate more effectively with them to inform them of case activity and supportive services. Homeless participants who live in LA County will have better access to homeless services because they will be more clearly identified. GR participants who acknowledge that they are in shared housing will receive the full GR grant.</p>	
	<p>County Outcomes: More individuals will disclose their residence, thereby making it easier to verify whether the applicant meets the 15-day residency requirement. For applicants who continue to self-identify as homeless, it will be easier to enforce the LA County residency requirement, because the number of such applicants will be smaller. Additionally, the incidence of reported homelessness is likely to decrease.</p>	
	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will receive a full GR grant. • Reduction in the number of participants claiming to be homeless to avoid the shared housing penalty. • Both housed and homeless participants will have better access to services. • Easier to verify L.A. County residency for GR applicants and participants. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modest cost of eliminating the deduction (about \$180,000/year).

OPTION F: GR TIME LIMIT CHANGE TO A MAXIMUM OF SIX MONTHS ON AID FOR EMPLOYABLE PARTICIPANTS

Attachment I-F

Current Policy

GR Policy:

40-121.1 – Employable individuals are time limited to six months plus an additional three months (for continued GROW participation) in any 12 month period (a maximum of 277 days).

Applicable Statutes:

W & I Code 17000.6(a) The board of supervisors of any county may adopt a standard of aid below the level established in Section 17000.5 if the Commission on State Mandates makes a finding that meeting the standards in Section 17000.5 would result in a significant financial distress to the county. When the commission makes a finding of significant financial distress concerning a county, the board of supervisors may establish a level of aid which is not less than 40 percent of the 1991 federal official poverty level, which may be further reduced pursuant to Section 17001.5 for shared housing. The commission shall not make a finding of significant financial distress unless the county has made a compelling case that, absent the finding, basic county services, including public safety, cannot be maintained.

(f) A county board of supervisors may continue the standard of aid adopted under this section beyond the period in subdivision (b), irrespective of whether the county has applied for or received a renewal of the authority to reduce aid as permitted by subdivision (b), provided the county acts in accordance with all of the following:

(1) The county may not prohibit an employable individual from receiving aid under this part for less than six months in a 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. If an employable individual has taken and continues to take all steps to apply for appropriate positions and has not refused an offer of employment without good cause, a county shall extend aid until the individual has received aid for nine months in a 12-month period. The time limit provided in this paragraph shall begin for each employable individual at the time the employable individual is enrolled in the mandatory welfare-to-work program set forth in paragraph (2).

(2) The county shall, within six months of the county's implementation of this subdivision, require employable individuals to participate while on aid under this part in services equivalent to the welfare-to-work program provided for pursuant to Article 3.2 (commencing with Section 11320) of Chapter 2 of Part 3. Employable individuals shall participate in this program as a condition of eligibility for aid under this part.

County Code 2.102.270 General relief--Eligibility--Time limits for employables – A. No employable general relief applicant or recipient who has been offered an opportunity to attend job skills or job training sessions shall be eligible for general relief for more than four months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive.

B. The department shall provide the job skills or job training sessions described in subsection A and shall offer each employable applicant and recipient the opportunity to attend such job skills or job training sessions.

C. Notwithstanding subsections A and B, if the board implements the requirements of Section 17000.6(f) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, no employable applicant or recipient shall be eligible for general relief for more than six months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. However, such employable applicant or recipient who continues to comply with the department's welfare-to-work requirements shall be eligible for an additional three months in such 12-month period. (Ord. 99-0006 § 2, 1999; Ord. 97-0025 § 1, 1997.)

Policy Option	<p>Description of Proposal:</p> <p>The County could pursue a legislative change to W&I Code Section 17001.6(f)(1) to state that the County may establish a time limit for employable participants of no less than six months out of twelve and still maintain the mandate-relief grant of \$221 per month for all GR participants instead of \$272. The proposal would be to modify the law by deleting the second sentence of W&I Code 17001.6(f)(1):</p> <p>(1) The county may not prohibit an employable individual from receiving aid under this part for less than six months in a 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. If an employable individual has taken and continues to take all steps to apply for appropriate positions and has not refused an offer of employment without good cause, a county shall extend aid until the individual has received aid for nine months in a 12-month period. The time limit provided in this paragraph shall begin for each employable individual at the time the employable individual is enrolled in the mandatory welfare-to-work program set forth in paragraph (2).</p> <p>Impacted Population: Employable GR participants enrolled in the GROW Program. As of February 2011, the number of employable GR participants was 42,396 participants.</p>		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: More employable GR participants will have their benefits terminated sooner as a result of the shorter maximum time limit and they will have fewer months in the GROW Program to seek and prepare for employment.</p> <p>County Outcomes: This would result in significant NCC savings due to a reduction in the GR caseload.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 1136 1442 1352"> <tr> <td data-bbox="435 1136 933 1352"> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in GR caseload. • Significant savings in Net County cost for GR assistance. • Reduction in GROW costs. </td><td data-bbox="933 1136 1442 1352"> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to finish a job training program. • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to find a job. • Earlier termination of assistance for participants pursuing employment, with potential increase in homelessness and/or costs in other County departments. • Implementation of this Option is dependent upon legislative change. </td></tr> </table>	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in GR caseload. • Significant savings in Net County cost for GR assistance. • Reduction in GROW costs. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to finish a job training program. • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to find a job. • Earlier termination of assistance for participants pursuing employment, with potential increase in homelessness and/or costs in other County departments. • Implementation of this Option is dependent upon legislative change.
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in GR caseload. • Significant savings in Net County cost for GR assistance. • Reduction in GROW costs. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to finish a job training program. • Six months may not be enough time for some GR participants to find a job. • Earlier termination of assistance for participants pursuing employment, with potential increase in homelessness and/or costs in other County departments. • Implementation of this Option is dependent upon legislative change. 		

OPTION G: ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY WORKERS FOR THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

Attachment I-G

OPTION G: ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY WORKERS FOR THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM		Attachment I-G
Current Policy	GR Policy: N/A	
	Applicable Statutes: N/A	
Proposed Policy	Description of Proposal:	
	The County could approve funding to support additional Eligibility Workers (EW), Eligibility Supervisors (ES), and Clerks, to alleviate the current high GR EW caseloads and allow eligibility staff more time to effectively administer GR program rules to ensure participants who are ineligible for GR benefits do not continue to receive these benefits.	
	The GR caseload in Los Angeles County has been dramatically increasing since 2007; however, there has not been a corresponding increase in eligibility staff. GR staff who manage the GR approved cases is staffed at 7% of the current need, which means that each GR approved EW is responsible for 14 times the appropriate number of cases, as established by the official yardstick. As a result of the shortage of staff, EWs do not have enough time to thoroughly review and take appropriate action on GR cases that are not in compliance with the GR requirements. Additional eligibility staff will help alleviate a drastic staffing shortage in the GR Program.	
	If this option is implemented, all case-carrying EWs could be required to conduct targeted case reviews that focus on identifying cases that have a high probability of being error prone (based on a set or pre-determined factors) to ensure that participants who are ineligible for GR benefits do not continue to receive these benefits.	
	Impacted Population: Unknown number of approved GR participants.	
Impact of Proposed Policy Change	Outcomes for Participant/Applicants:	
	Higher number of case terminations and sanctions as a result of eligibility staff reviewing likely error-prone GR cases and having more time to properly administer the overall GR caseload.	
	County Outcomes: Cost savings expected as a result of caseload reductions due to an increase in GR case terminations and sanctions.	
	Pros:	Cons:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in caseload due to increased GR case terminations.• Net County cost savings from reduction in caseload.• Reduction in GR EW caseloads.• Appropriate sanctions and terminations will be applied to those who fail to comply with Program rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in Net County cost for additional Eligibility Workers, potentially offset or exceeded by GR grant savings from a reduction in the GR caseload.

OPTION H: Additional Case Managers for the GROW Program**Attachment I-H****Current Policy**GR Policy:
N/A

Applicable Statutes: N/A

Policy Option**Description of Option:**

Increase the number of GROW GSWs so that GROW staff will be able to properly serve GR participants in the GROW program and enforce GROW participation requirements.

JUSTIFICATION

As a result of the massive increase in the GROW caseload since the onset of the Great Recession, the number of current GROW case managers is grossly inadequate. Based on a yardstick of 115, there is a current need for 365 GROW GSWs; however, the current number of budgeted GROW GSWs is 141, only 39% of need.

GR GROW participants generally exit GROW for one of three reasons: employment, sanction, or exhaustion of the GR time limit for employable participants. The lack of GROW staff adversely impacts terminations for employment and sanctions:

Job Placements - Currently, GROW GSWs have no time for the development of job leads and job opportunities for GROW participants, and many GROW participants must wait for an extended period of time to even meet with a GSW.

Noncompliance/Sanctions - Currently, GROW GSWs cannot properly enforce GROW program rules and impose sanctions where warranted:

- GROW GSWs have no time to impose sanctions on all cases that justify them.
- GROW GSWs are unable to track participation in activities and therefore grant "good cause" to noncompliant participants who would otherwise be sanctioned.
- GROW GSWs are more lenient in the imposition of sanctions because they have no time to monitor compliance with GROW requirements.

We project that the number of GROW participants will increase in FY 2011-12, intensifying the need for additional GROW staff. Enhanced disability assessments were implemented in May 2011, in place of the cursory employability screening. As a result, we project that a substantial percentage of the 28,500 participants who are currently designated as Temporarily Unemployable will be designated as Employable or Employable with Accommodations (a new employability category which will include individuals with minor disabilities, who are able to work with reasonable accommodations). All participants designated as Employable or Employable with Accommodations will be required to participate in GROW.

	<p>Additionally, Option I addresses possible modifications to the criteria for the current designation of Administratively Unemployable. If approved, these changes will result in an increase of several thousand participants who will be required to participate in GROW, since most participants who are no longer designated Administratively Unemployable will be Employable.</p> <p>This option is partially addressed by a recommendation included in the CEO FY 2011-12 Final Changes Board Letter to transfer 50 GAIN Services Workers (GSWs) and nine GAIN Services Supervisors (GSSs) to GROW for a one-year period. However, since there is a current shortage of 224 GROW case managers (without taking into account the impact of the disability assessments or any change in the criteria for administratively unemployable), even with this transfer, there will remain a critical shortage of GROW staff.</p> <p>Impacted Population:</p> <p>GR/GROW participants generally exit GROW for one of three reasons: employment, sanctions or exhaustion of time limits.</p> <p>Due to the increased caseloads, the GROW Case Managers are unable to adequately assist participants with the development of job leads, referrals for support services, job opportunities, and many other activities. GROW participants must often wait for an extended period of time to meet with their Case Manager.</p> <p>Additionally, participants who are not participating in the program as required are supposed to be terminated/sanctioned. However, this is not always happening due to the lack of adequate staff to manage, assign and track the participants' GROW activities.</p>		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant:</p> <p>This measure will result in positive impact to the participants. An increase in the number of GROW GSWs will allow for a reduction in the number of GROW participants assigned to each GROW case manager. With reduced caseloads, GROW Case Managers will have more time to devote to each of their participants. GROW participants will receive more one-on-one assistance from their Case Managers to help them find employment. Participants placed into employment will be able to achieve self-sufficiency.</p> <p>County Outcomes:</p> <p>Reduction in the GR caseload, due to increased terminations from GROW participants securing employment or being sanctioned.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="414 1291 1469 1430"> <tr> <td data-bbox="414 1291 933 1430"> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in staff's performance and productivity. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Increase in job placements for participants. • Appropriate sanctions and terminations will be applied to those who fail to comply with Program rules. </td><td data-bbox="933 1291 1469 1430"> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Net County costs for additional GROW staff, potentially offset or exceeded by GR grant savings from a reduction in the GR caseload. </td></tr> </table>	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in staff's performance and productivity. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Increase in job placements for participants. • Appropriate sanctions and terminations will be applied to those who fail to comply with Program rules. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Net County costs for additional GROW staff, potentially offset or exceeded by GR grant savings from a reduction in the GR caseload.
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in staff's performance and productivity. • Reduction in GR caseload. • Increase in job placements for participants. • Appropriate sanctions and terminations will be applied to those who fail to comply with Program rules. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Net County costs for additional GROW staff, potentially offset or exceeded by GR grant savings from a reduction in the GR caseload. 		

OPTION I: ADMINISTRATIVELY UNEMPLOYABLE CATEGORY**Attachment I-I****Current Policy**

GR Policy: 41-202 - Administratively Unemployable means there are reasons other than physical or mental incapacity which prevent the individual from finding, accepting or continuing existing employment.

An individual is determined to be administratively unemployable when one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Enrolled/pre-enrolled in a California Department of Rehabilitation training program.
2. Provides full-time care to an ill/incapacitated family member who resides with the GR participant.
3. Age 17 years old or younger.
4. Age 18 and participating in an acceptable course of study, which is expected to complete prior to the 19th birthday.
5. Provides care to a child within the GR household who is under one (1) year of age.
6. Pregnant (to be aided on GR during the first five months of pregnancy only).
7. Age 65 years or older.
8. Age 60-64 years of age and not designated unemployable, Need Special Assistance or permanently unemployable.
9. Requesting GR pending receipt of first paycheck.
10. Applicant is requesting GR on a LEADER-generated, PA 898.15, General Relief Application – Non Resident, to return to his/her legal residence and is awaiting final arrangements for transportation.
11. Participating in the Mandatory Substance Abuse Recovery Program (MSARP) and both of the following conditions exist:
 - The parent has a child placed in foster care by court order; and
 - There is a reunification plan.
12. Determined administratively unemployable by the District Director/Deputy District Director.
13. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) individuals who have not received their Employment Authorization from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Applicable Statutes: N/A

Policy Option**Description of Option:**

The Administratively Unemployable (AU) Category is a status designated for individuals who are unable to work for reasons other than disability. This category is not mandated by the W&I Code, County Code, or any lawsuit. This is a category that the County created to assist individuals whose circumstances are perceived as barriers to employment. The AU Category has been re-evaluated to assess its applicability to the County's goal of restructuring the GR Program to focus on positive outcomes for the GR population.

The County could revise the current Administratively Unemployable (AU) criteria to eliminate eight of the current 13 AU criteria.

Below is an assessment of the existing AU criteria broken out by the following three categories:

- Remain an AU criterion
- Remain an AU criterion with modification
- Eliminate as an AU criterion

REMAIN AN AU CRITERION

1. Individuals who are 65 years old or older.
2. Individuals who are requesting GR pending receipt of first paycheck. (Employment has been verified and salary makes participant ineligible to

ongoing GR.) These individuals are only aided up to their first paycheck or 14 days, whichever is less.

3. Individuals who are 17 years old or younger.
4. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) individuals who have not received their Employment Authorization from USCIS.
5. Individuals who provide care to a child within the GR household who is under one (1) year of age. The child may be an ineligible alien.

REMAIN AN AU CRITERION WITH MODIFICATION

Current Criterion: Individuals who are 60-64 years of age and not designated unemployable, Needs Special Assistance (NSA) or permanently unemployable.

Modification:

- Limit this criterion to individuals who are age 62 and older and **not** designated unemployable, NSA or permanently unemployable. Additionally, these individuals will be required to apply for Social Security benefits at age 62 and SSI benefits at age 65.
- Individuals who are between the ages of 60 and 61 and 11 months will NOT be deemed AU. Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by the Department of Mental Health (DMH)/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.

ELIMINATE AS AN AU CRITERION

1. **Current criterion:** Individuals who provide full time care to an ill/incapacitated family member who resides with the GR participant because no other arrangements can be made and the need is medically documented.

Note: Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by DMH/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. Individuals may be excused from participation in GROW for a period of up to 60 days to care for ill/incapacitated family member. Time Limits continue throughout the 60 days. Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.

2. **Current criterion:** Individuals who are enrolled/pre-enrolled in a California Department of Rehabilitation (DR) training program and the status is verified by a DR form.

Note: Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by DMH/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. The hours the individuals is participating in DR activities will count toward GROW participation hours. Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.

3. **Current criterion:** Individuals who are participating in the Mandatory Substance Abuse Recovery Program (MSARP) and both of the following conditions exist: 1) the parent has a child placed in foster care by court order; and, 2) there is a reunification plan (i.e., plan to reunite the family) which has been verified (by phone or in writing) with the Children's Social Worker of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Note: Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by DMH/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW. The hours the individuals is participating in MSARP and DCFS Reunification plan activities will count toward GROW participation hours and the individual will be subject to sanctions, not time limits. When the substance abuse recovery program has ended, the time limit clock will begin. Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.

4. **Current criterion:** Individuals who are 18 or younger and participating in an acceptable course of study, which is expected to be completed prior

	<p>to the 19th birthday. The participant's age, enrollment in school full time and expectation to complete the school program before the participant's 19th birthday must be verified. Full time high school enrollment consists of four (4) or more hours of attendance per day. Full time vocational/technical school enrollment consists of 3-1/4 hours or more of attendance per day.</p> <p>Note: Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by DMH/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW. The individual is excused from GROW activities, sanctions and time limits until one of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual graduates from high school or an acceptable course of study. Upon graduating, the individual will no longer be exempt from GROW participation and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. • Individual drops out of high school or the acceptable course of study. Upon dropping out, the individual will no longer be exempt from GROW participation and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. • Individual fails to provide verification of continued participation in school. If no verification is received, the individual will no longer be exempt from GROW participation and will be subject to sanctions and time limits. <p>Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.</p> <p>5. Current criterion: Individuals who are pregnant are aided as AU during the first five months of pregnancy only, and then are eligible to CalWORKs.</p> <p>Note: Individuals who are deemed employable through self-declaration or by DMH/contracted medical provider will be referred to GROW and will be <u>exempt</u> from time limits. Individuals who are deemed unemployable will be given the appropriate unemployable status.</p> <p>6. Current Criterion: Individuals who are determined AU by the District Director/Deputy District Director.</p> <p>Individuals who do not meet any of the below AU criteria will be designated employable unless determined to be unemployable by a DPSS contracted medical provider.</p> <p>Impacted Population: Currently there are 8,313 individuals in the AU category. With this policy change, this category will be reduced to an estimated 2,068 individuals.</p>		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: Individuals who were previously identified as AU will now be designated Employable or Unemployable; most will be designated Employable. These individuals will be referred to GROW for employment services or to SSIMAP for assistance with transitioning to SSI which will better assist them toward self-sufficiency.</p> <p>County Outcomes: This change will lead to a caseload reduction as a result of more individuals being designated Employable, since they will exit GR at a faster rate due to securing employment, being sanctioned, or reaching the 9-month employable time limit on GR. An estimated 6,245 individuals will be removed from the AU category and most will be designated as Employable.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="261 1402 1443 1514"> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1402 846 1514"> Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to participation in GROW or pursuit of SSI benefits. • County cost savings associated with individuals exiting GR due to employment, GROW sanctions/time limit, or SSI. </td><td data-bbox="846 1402 1443 1514"> Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified. </td></tr> </table>	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to participation in GROW or pursuit of SSI benefits. • County cost savings associated with individuals exiting GR due to employment, GROW sanctions/time limit, or SSI. 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to participation in GROW or pursuit of SSI benefits. • County cost savings associated with individuals exiting GR due to employment, GROW sanctions/time limit, or SSI. 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified. 		

OPTION J: ADDITIONAL GR SSIMAP ADVOCACY STAFF
Attachment I-J

Current Policy	<p>GR Policy: N/A</p> <p>Applicable Statutes: N/A</p>		
Policy Option	<p>Description of Option:</p> <p>The General Relief Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (GR SSIMAP) provides advocacy services to help physically and mentally disabled General Relief (GR) participants apply for SSI, obtain early SSI approval, and become self-sufficient. If approved, individuals are eligible for up to \$850 on SSI versus \$221 on GR. Additionally, SSI recipients are entitled to Medi-Cal.</p> <p>Although the Board of Supervisors-approved GR Restructuring Project addresses many aspects of GR SSIMAP, this option would enhance it even further. The County could hire 10 additional GR SSIMAP Advocates and 1 GR SSIMAP Supervisor for a Pilot to test whether a reduced caseload would secure a sufficiently higher number of SSI approvals and/or obtain faster SSI approvals to offset the net County cost of the additional GR SSIMAP staff. This group of 10 GR SSIMAP Advocates would receive a caseload comprised of existing GR SSIMAP cases. The cases will come directly from the caseloads of 10 current GR SSIMAP Advocates. The new advocates will receive 50% of the cases managed by the current advocates. After the cases have been redistributed, 20 GR SSIMAP Advocates will have received a caseload that is 50% less than the average caseload of the original 10 GR SSIMAP Advocates.</p> <p>The NCC cost of this pilot would be \$858,000/year.</p> <p>Impacted Population: GR SSIMAP staff and GR participants pursuing SSI benefits.</p>		
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: By hiring additional GR SSIMAP Advocacy staff, GR participants in the program would have better access to more efficient and effective services as a result of the reduced individual caseloads resulting from adding more GR SSIMAP staff.</p> <p>County Outcomes: As a result of hiring additional GR SSIMAP Advocacy staff, GR participants served by SSI advocates in the pilot would receive more Advocacy services to strengthen their SSI application, thereby increasing GR participants' chances of obtaining expedited SSI approvals.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 1354 1430 1537"> <tr> <td data-bbox="415 1354 922 1537"> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI, which will lead to an increase in prospective GR grant savings. • Increase in Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) collections. • Reduction of GR SSIMAP caseload for GR SSIMAP Advocates participating in the pilot. </td><td data-bbox="922 1354 1430 1537"> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the additional cost of GR SSIMAP Advocates, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings from the increase in SSI approvals. </td></tr> </table>	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI, which will lead to an increase in prospective GR grant savings. • Increase in Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) collections. • Reduction of GR SSIMAP caseload for GR SSIMAP Advocates participating in the pilot. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the additional cost of GR SSIMAP Advocates, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings from the increase in SSI approvals.
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI, which will lead to an increase in prospective GR grant savings. • Increase in Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) collections. • Reduction of GR SSIMAP caseload for GR SSIMAP Advocates participating in the pilot. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the additional cost of GR SSIMAP Advocates, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings from the increase in SSI approvals. 		

**OPTION K: MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS IN GENERAL RELIEF
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AND MEDI-CAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

Attachment I-K

Current Policy	GR Policy: N/A			
	Applicable Statutes: N/A			
Policy Option	<p>Description of Option:</p> <p>The County could approve funding to provide Mental Health Treatment to potentially SSI-eligible GR participants who have mental health illnesses, but lacks sufficient treatment documentation to support their SSI applications. SSI applications based on mental health disabilities are more difficult to prove than those based on physical disabilities. Such applications often require a consistent, well-documented mental health treatment history over an extended period of time to have a good chance to be approved.</p> <p>Mental Health Treatment would expand upon the Comprehensive Evaluations that certain participants receive to evaluate the severity of their mental health disabilities. The goal of treatment would be to strengthen the SSI applications of those participants whose documentation, including the comprehensive evaluation, is inadequate. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) would provide these GR participants with the treatment they need for 6-12 months to generate adequate documentation of the disability. DPSS would pay for treatment services that DMH would provide to the target population for these services.</p> <p>Providing Mental Health Treatment to these GR participants would be beneficial to both the participant and the County, since it would improve the participant's probability for SSI approval. According to DMH, the average annual estimated Mental Health Treatment cost per participant would be \$8,000.</p> <p>Impacted Population: GR participants with mental health disabilities applying for SSI, but who lack adequate documentation of their disabilities.</p>			
Impact of Policy Option	<p>Outcomes for Applicant/Participant: By providing ongoing Mental Health Treatment, potentially SSI-eligible GR participants with mental health disabilities would receive appropriate Mental Health Treatment from licensed professionals. Since ongoing treatment is an important factor when developing an SSI application, DMH would develop a treatment history that can be submitted along with the SSI application. This would lead to a higher SSI approval rate among participants with mental health disabilities.</p> <p>County Outcomes: By providing ongoing Mental Health Treatment, cost savings would occur as a result of caseload reductions due to higher SSI approval rates among GR participants with mental health disabilities.</p> <table><tr><td><p>Pros:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI.• Increase in prospective GR grant savings and an increase in IAR collections.• County savings as a result of anticipated higher SSI approval rates.• Provides potentially SSI eligible GR participants who</td><td><p>Cons:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate treatment history may be ready only at the appeal stage; thus, the SSI approval rates for initial applications may not improve for SSI applications that have been previously filed.• Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the cost of mental health treatment, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings</td></tr></table>		<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI.• Increase in prospective GR grant savings and an increase in IAR collections.• County savings as a result of anticipated higher SSI approval rates.• Provides potentially SSI eligible GR participants who	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate treatment history may be ready only at the appeal stage; thus, the SSI approval rates for initial applications may not improve for SSI applications that have been previously filed.• Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the cost of mental health treatment, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the number of individuals becoming self-sufficient due to receipt of SSI.• Increase in prospective GR grant savings and an increase in IAR collections.• County savings as a result of anticipated higher SSI approval rates.• Provides potentially SSI eligible GR participants who	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate treatment history may be ready only at the appeal stage; thus, the SSI approval rates for initial applications may not improve for SSI applications that have been previously filed.• Increase in GR Program expenditures due to the cost of mental health treatment, potentially offset or exceeded by increased IAR and GR grant savings			

	<p>may be mentally disabled with much needed mental health treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR participants may receive a more intensive approach to treatment services. • Prioritization of GR participants at DMH clinics. • Access to clinical documentation needed to support SSI eligibility. • Increased engagement of GR participants. 	<p>from the increase in SSI approvals.</p> <p>Cons identified by DMH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time lapse to establish a new specialized program at DMH clinics. • Time needed for training and full implementation. • Recruitment efforts. • With the implementation of Healthy Way Los Angeles (HWLA), which is part of Health Care Reform, there may be enrollment of GR participants who are already in our system. A new project will require specific criteria for referrals.
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Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
Residency Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-day residency requirement and intent to remain permanently or indefinitely. A homeless individual's statement on the application is sufficient. Persons who reside in a mobile home, motor home, camper, boat, or houseboat may be eligible to GR as long as the vehicle is parked/docked at a residential address. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-to-30 day residency based on the type of General Assistance (GA) requested by the individual. Residency must be proven with acceptable verification. Individuals who arrive in SF from another county or state must provide: 1) Store receipts dating back to their arrival, 2) a bill from a merchant within the time-frame to establish residency, or 3) bus ticket from Greyhound showing when they arrived in SF. Housed individuals must provide mandatory verification of residency every 6 months, rent receipts, landlord statement, utility bills, etc... Homeless individuals must provide mandatory verification of residency every month such as shelter receipts, bed tickets, etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-day residency requirement. Housed individuals are required to provide verification such as utility bills, rent receipts. Homeless individuals may provide a self-declaration as verification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-day residency requirement. Housed individuals are required to provide verification such as rent receipts, landlord statements. Homeless individuals are required to provide verification such as shelter's statement, shelter receipts, friend's statement, etc. This county uses a form for homeless declaration. Individuals are required to verify their residence at application and monthly thereafter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-day residency requirement and intent to reside in the County. Acceptable proof of residency required such as rent receipts, utility bills, etc. Residency must be verified every month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No residency requirement, but proof of intent to remain in the County for purposes that are not temporary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-day residency requirement. Applicants need not have a fixed address to be eligible, but proof of residence may be required. Acceptable proof of residency required such as rent receipt, utility bills in the applicant or recipient's name. The applicant may provide collateral evidence in the absence of conclusive proof. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do any of the following: (1) (A) Adopt residency requirements for purposes of determining a persons' eligibility for general assistance. Any residence requirement under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 days. (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize the adoption of a requirement that an applicant or recipient have an address or to require a homeless person to acquire an address. 	No	Yes Option D
Identification requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All individuals must provide a Social Security Number (SSN) and acceptable verification of their identity at application which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Forces discharge papers. Certified birth certificate. Driver's License current or expired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each applicant shall present proof of identity and a verifiable SSN. Only the following photo identifications are acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA DMV driver's license or ID card. Current US passport. Current INS identification which contains photo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory photo identification is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory photo identification is required for all adults applying for benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory valid photo ID is required such as CA DMV license/ID card. A SSN or proof of application for SSN is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory valid photo ID is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory valid photo ID is required such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driver license or DMV-identification card Birth Certificate Immigration Status document Marriage Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The W&I Section 17000 that governs the GR Program does not address identification requirements. 	No	No

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from any State Indian Tribal Enrollment Card. USCIS card with photo. Photo ID issued by DMV, employer, or any recognized agency with signature and number. US passport Computer-generated print-out from L.A. County Recorder verifying birth in L.A. County Individuals are referred for mandatory fingerprinting/ photo imaging. 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Military ID Passport. 			
Sanctions For Employable Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions are imposed progressively as follows: 1st sanction is 0 day. 2nd sanction is 30 days. 3rd sanction is 60 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any non-compliance in GA and Personal Assisted Employment Services (PAES) results in a progressive sanction as follows: 1st sanction is 30 days. 2nd sanction is 60 days. 3rd sanction is 90 days. Sanction for fraud is 120 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sanctions are imposed at this point due to budget cuts. Sanction information unavailable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions are imposed progressively every 12 months as follows: 1st sanction is 90 days. 2nd sanction is 180 days. 3rd sanction is permanent. Intentional Program Violators are also given a permanent sanction at application and approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions are imposed as follows: 1st sanction is 30 days. 2nd sanction is 180 days. 3rd sanction is 360 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions are imposed progressively: 1st sanction is 30 days. 2nd sanction is 60 days. 3rd sanction is 90 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions are imposed progressively as follows: 1st sanction is 60 days. 2nd sanction is 120 days. 3rd sanction is 180 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17001.5 (3) (A) to (D) Discontinue aid for a period of not more than 180 days with respect to any recipient who is employable and has received aid for three months if the recipient engages in any of the following conduct: (interpretation of this W&I Code Section is under review by County Counsel) (A) Fails, or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a qualified job training program, participation of which is a condition of receipt of assistance. (B) After completion of a job training program, fails, or refuses, without good cause, to accept an offer of 	<p>Yes (There is no legal mandate to impose a progressive penalty. Additionally, aid may be discontinued for a period of not more than 180 days.)</p>	<p>Yes Option B</p>

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
								<p>appropriate employment.</p> <p>(C) Persistently fails, or refuses, without good cause, to cooperate with the county in its efforts to do any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll the recipient in a job training program. After completion of a job training program, locate and secure appropriate employment for the recipient. 		
Property and Asset Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At application, limit is \$50 cash on hand or in bank accounts (\$100 for family cases) Approved case limit is \$1,500 cash on hand or in bank accounts in addition to the GR grant and personal property not to exceed \$500 in value. Recipients can own one real property used as a home, provided its assessed value does not exceed \$34,000. A lien will be placed on all real property Vehicle cannot exceed \$4,500 in value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Property cannot exceed the current monthly maximum stipend available to a single individual. Property shall be offset dollar for dollar from the stipend. Insurance policies cannot exceed \$800 per family. Vehicle cannot exceed \$4,650 in value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash, stocks, bonds and other forms of negotiable securities except insurance shall not exceed a cash or market value of \$10 per family. The cash surrender value of insurance policies cannot exceed \$200 per family unit. The market value of other non-exempt personal property shall not exceed a combined value of \$250 per family unit. The total gross value of all vehicles shall not exceed \$5,500 and the combined net value of all vehicles shall not exceed \$2,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal property not to exceed \$1,000 in value Cash in hand cannot exceed the maximum monthly grant. Vehicles are exempt from the personal property value limit up to a value of \$1,500. Real property used as a home is exempt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property limits cannot exceed \$1,000 in value. \$250 personal effects; \$5 liquid assets; up to \$1,500 vehicle value; 1 burial arrangement per person; no real property allowed Have income less than \$264. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal property not to exceed \$250 in value including cash in hand. Vehicles are exempt for up to three months in a 12-month period if it is necessary for employment or daily commute. Real property used as a home is exempt. Equity value of additional real property counts towards property limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined value of the applicant's cash on hand, checking or savings account, stock or bonds, life insurance policies, deeds of trust, motor vehicle, boats, and similar property, cannot exceed a value of \$500. Of the liquid assets, \$50 are exempt. Property Exclusions: The house where the applicant lives is exempt. Any other real property (house, land, etc) is considered available to meet the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17107. The board of supervisors may establish its own policies with reference to the amount of property, if any, a person shall be permitted to have while receiving assistance, to the end that, so far as it is possible, an applicant for public relief shall be required to apply his own property to his support. 17111. An applicant or recipient shall be permitted to retain, without effect on his eligibility for aid or the amount of aid the tools of his trade necessary to continue or seek employment and an automobile of reasonable value needed to seek or maintain employment in order to enable the applicant or recipient to become self-supporting. The board of supervisors shall determine what tools of the trade may be retained as necessary and the reasonable value of an automobile used to seek or 	<p>Yes</p> <p>(There is no legal mandate to allow recipients to have property beyond an automobile of reasonable value and tools of the trade necessary to continue or seek employment.)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option C</p>

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates, Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
							applicant's needs. A motor vehicle with a value of \$4,500 or less is exempt.	maintain employment.		
Housing Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing subsidy is provided up to an amount of \$400 per month to recipients pursuing SSI and employment (limited slots available). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Not Cash is the mandatory program for homeless individuals; it provides housing and \$59-\$65 a month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of the monthly GA payment is for housing and 47% for food, personal needs and transportation. The rent portion is sent directly to the landlord. Grant amounts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Employable person: \$336/month One disabled person: \$375 per month. 	There is no specific mandate.	Yes (There is no legal mandate to provide housing subsidy assistance in addition to the GR grant.)	No. However, housing provides stability to homeless individuals who are pursuing SSI and employment.
Administratively Exempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GR recipients are determined Administratively Unemployable for reasons other than physical or mental incapacity which prevent the individual from finding, accepting or continuing employment. Examples include recipients who are pregnant, age 60 or over or caring for an incapacitated relative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant participants go to a triage and choose GA or PAES depending on capabilities. Seniors 55 and older can choose GA or PAES (if not time limited). Administratively Exempt are those who are taking care of a relative fulltime. These individuals must apply for IHSS within 30 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Administrative Exempt individuals, every individual is considered either employable or unemployable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 years or older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Administrative Exempt individuals, 65 or older are considered either Interim Assistance Provided employable, or incapacitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Administrative Exempt individuals, every individual is considered either employable or unemployable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant women receive GA for the first two trimesters. However, they must provide verification of disability or they will be subject to the three month-time limits for employable persons and required to look for a job. 	There is no specific mandate.	Yes (There is no legal mandate to administratively exempt applicants/recipients from work participation requirements.)	Yes Option I

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Mental Health Clinicians are co-located at all DPSS GR District Offices and provide assessments and determine exemption periods and provide referrals for mental health treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling, evaluations and treatment by contracted providers for PAES participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides referral to Community-Based Organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health services are provided by a contracted Mental Health Service Provider. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no specific mandate for mental health services, but there is a mandate to determine employability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes (There is no legal mandate to provide Mental Health services.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. This is a vulnerable population. Providing these services will help these individuals obtain the medical documentation necessary to qualify for SSI. Additionally, the mental health assessments satisfy the legal requirement to determine employability.
SSI Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPSS offers SSI and Medi-Cal advocacy services for physically and mentally disabled recipients once DPSS determines that they may be potentially eligible to SSI. Services provided include, ancillary expenses, medical and mental health record retrieval, assessments, and transportation. 65 or older and those deemed permanently disabled are required to apply for SSI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSIP is an advocacy program to assist the participant with the SSI application process, and provides supportive services assistance, transportation and shelter services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployable recipients are required to apply for SSI after one year on aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSI Advocacy is provided by Social Workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no specific mandate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes (There is no legal mandate to provide SSI Advocacy services.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. SSI Advocacy services provide a positive path to assist participants to transition off of GR and to SSI.
Grant Amount for single adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$221/month maximum grant for one individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GA \$342/month maximum. PAES \$422/month maximum. SSIP \$422/month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$255.36 maximum for one individual. \$285.12 for exempt individual, who must 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$239 for one individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$274 for one individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing voucher valued at \$291, no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$336 maximum for one employable individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17000.5. (a) The board of supervisors in any county may adopt a general assistance standard of aid, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Option A

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
		maximum • Care Not Cash \$59-65/month cash stipend and housing provided.	be receiving other disability payments such as SSI/SSP, IHSS, SDI or Temporary Worker's Compensation.			cash. • Vouchers available for food, utilities, and personal items.	• \$375 maximum for one disabled individual • 53% of the monthly GA payment is for housing and 47% for food, personal needs and transportation. The rent portion is sent directly to landlord.	including the value of in-kind aid which includes, but is not limited to, the monthly actuarial value of up to forty dollars (\$40) per month of medical care, that is 62 percent of a guideline that is equal to the 1991 federal official poverty line and may annually adjust that guideline in an amount equal to any adjustment provided under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3 for establishing a maximum aid level in the county. 17000.6. (a) The board of supervisors of any county may adopt a standard of aid below the level established in Section 17000.5 if the Commission on State Mandates makes a finding that meeting the standards in Section 17000.5 would result in a significant financial distress to the county. When the commission makes a finding of significant financial distress concerning a county, the board of supervisors may establish a level of aid which is not less than 40 percent of the 1991 federal official poverty level, which may be further reduced pursuant to Section 17001.5 for shared housing. The commission shall not make a finding of significant financial distress unless the county has made a compelling case that, absent the finding, basic county services, including public safety, cannot be		

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
								<p>maintained.</p> <p>(f) A county board of supervisors may continue the standard of aid adopted under this section beyond the period in subdivision irrespective of whether the county has applied for or received a renewal of the authority to reduce aid as permitted by subdivision (b), provided the county acts in accordance with all of the following:</p> <p>(1) The county may not prohibit an employable individual from receiving aid under this part for less than six months in a 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. If an employable individual has taken and continues to take all steps to apply for appropriate positions and has not refused an offer of employment without good cause, a county shall extend aid until the individual has received aid for nine months in a 12-month period. The time limit provided in this paragraph shall begin for each employable individual at the time the employable individual is enrolled in the mandatory welfare-to-work program set forth in paragraph (2).</p> <p>(2) The county shall, within six months of the county's implementation of this subdivision, require employable individuals to participate while on aid under this part in services equivalent to the welfare-to-work program provided for pursuant to Article 3.2</p>		

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
								(commencing with Section 11320) of Chapter 2 of Part 3. Employable individuals shall participate in this program as a condition of eligibility for aid under this part.		
GR/GA Grant Structure	• Cash	• Cash and In-Kind	• Cash	• Cash	• Cash	• In-kind, No Cash	• Cash and In-kind	• 17001.5. (c) A county may provide aid pursuant to Section 17000.5 either by cash assistance, in-kind aid, a two-party payment, voucher payment, or check drawn to the order of a third-party provider of services to the recipient. Nothing shall restrict a county from providing more than one method of aid to an individual recipient.	Yes (Cash assistance is not required)	Yes Option A
Substance Abuse Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Substance Abuse and Recovery Program (MSARP) is intended to provide treatment for those suffering substance abuse issues. • Applicants are screened for substance abuse and alcohol and are referred to an assessment. • Individuals assessed with substance abuse issues are referred for treatment and are required to participate in MSARP. 	• None	• None	• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GR Alcohol and Drug Services (GRADS) Program is a mandatory substance abuse recovery program for GR applicants and recipients. • A finding of chemical dependency, alone, shall have no bearing on the employability status of the applicant/recipient. 	• None	• Persons with substance abuse problem must participate in a treatment program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17001.51 - A county may require applicants and recipients to undergo screening for substance abuse when it is determined by the county that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that an individual is dependent upon illegal drugs or alcohol. • A county may require as a condition of aid reasonable participation in substance abuse or alcohol treatment programs, if the services are actually available at no charge to the applicant or recipient. 	Yes (There is no legal mandate to provide substance abuse treatment services.)	No. As part of the Board-approved GR Restructuring Plan, CEO-SIB is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of MSARP. Based on the recommendations from the report, DPSS will work with DPH to modify MSARP.

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates Welfare & Institutions Code	Does LA County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
Mandatory Work Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) Program. 	YES, PAES Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, General Assistance Training and Employment (GATE) Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, GR Work Program (GRWP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, GR Employable Program (GREE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17000.6 (2) J The county shall require employable individuals to participate in a mandatory welfare-to-work program. Employable individuals shall participate in this program as a condition of eligibility for aid. 	No	No
Time Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six months within a 12-month period for employable recipients, plus three months for continued participation in GROW. Unemployable individuals are not subject to time-limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GA is unlimited. PAES is 27 months in a lifetime. SSIP is unlimited. Care Not Cash is unlimited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employable individuals are limited to three months out of any 12 month period. Unemployable individuals are not subject to time limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employable participants receive three months out of any 12 month period. Unemployable individuals are not subject to time limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employable participants receive three months out of any 12 month period. Unemployable individuals are not subject to time limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program is not time-limited since it is voucher based. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employable participants receive three months out of any 12 month period. Unemployable individuals are not subject to time-limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17000.6. (f) A county board of supervisors may continue the standard of aid adopted under this section beyond the period in subdivision irrespective of whether the county has applied for or received a renewal of the authority to reduce aid as permitted by subdivision (b), provided the county acts in accordance with all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The county may not prohibit an employable individual from receiving aid under this part for less than six months in a 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. If an employable individual has taken and continues to take all steps to apply for appropriate positions and has not refused an offer of employment without good cause, a county shall extend aid until the individual has received aid for nine months in a 12-month period. The time limit provided in this paragraph shall begin for each employable individual at the time the employable individual is enrolled in the mandatory welfare-to-work program set forth in paragraph (2). (2) The county shall, within six months of the county's implementation of this 	No	Yes Option F

Comparison of Los Angeles County General Relief Policies to Other Counties and Legal Mandates

Policy Area	Los Angeles County	San Francisco	Sacramento	Orange	San Diego	Riverside	Contra Costa	Legal Mandates: Welfare & Institutions Code	Does L.A. County Exceed Legal Mandate?	Is there a Policy Option?
								<p>subdivision, require employable individuals to participate while on aid under this part in services equivalent to the welfare-to-work program provided for pursuant to Article 3.2 (commencing with Section 11320) of Chapter 2 of Part 3. Employable individuals shall participate in this program as a condition of eligibility for aid under this part.</p> <p><i>(This sub-section applies to Los Angeles County)</i></p> <p>• 17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do any of the following:</p> <p>(4) Prohibit an employable individual from receiving aid under this part for more than three months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive. This paragraph shall apply to aid received on or after the effective date of this paragraph. This paragraph shall apply only to those individuals who have been offered an opportunity to attend job skills or job training sessions.</p>		

SSI ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY FACT SHEET

The County of Los Angeles Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS), Health Services (DHS) and Mental Health (DMH) currently provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy services to help physically and mentally disabled individuals apply for SSI:

DPSS

DPSS provides advocacy services to help aged, physically and mentally disabled participants apply for SSI, obtain early SSI approval, and become self-sufficient through its General Relief Supplemental Security Income and Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (GR SSIMAP), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants Supplemental Security Income Advocacy Program (CAPI SSIAP), and CalWORKs Supplemental Security Income Advocacy Program (CalWORKs SSIAP). If approved, individuals are eligible for up to \$845 on SSI.

OVERVIEW OF THE GR SSIMAP PROGRAM

The GR SSIMAP is a service offered at all 14 of the DPSS GR Districts Offices and is supported by 74 SSI Advocacy staff. These staff are responsible for providing advocacy services to all physically and mentally disabled GR participants who are potentially eligible for SSI. If approved, individuals are eligible for up to \$845 on SSI versus \$221 on GR. Additionally, SSI recipients are entitled to Medi-Cal. GR SSIMAP staff provides assistance at each level of the SSI application process:

INITIAL APPLICATION - During the initial interview, the participant meets with the district SSI Advocate to discuss the participant's current SSI status, the participant's potential eligibility for SSI, the sources of medical records, and the sources of non-medical information about the participant's functionality. After potential eligibility for SSI has been determined, the SSI Advocate assists the participant to complete all the required forms, explains the participant's reporting responsibilities, and the completed SSI application is then filed by the SSI Advocate with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION - If the SSI application is denied, the first appeal is known as the Request for Reconsideration. The SSI Advocate assists the participant in filing the request. The reconsideration consists of SSA and the Disability Determination Services Division (DDSD) staff (not involved in the first decision) reviewing the medical documentation already on file plus any additional evidence.

SSI HEARING REPRESENTATION - If the request for reconsideration is denied, the final step is to request a hearing with SSA's Office of Hearings and Appeals. The SSI Advocate refers the case to DPSS' contracted SSI hearing contractor (Health Advocates). The contractor meets with the participant, completes all required forms, requests the hearing with SSA and represents the participant at the hearing. There is no charge to the participant for these services.

Overview of GR SSIMAP Supportive Services

The GR SSIMAP offers a wide array of supportive services to help GR participants qualify for SSI:

- **RECORD RETRIEVAL** - GR SSIMAP staff identify GR applicants/participants who have a medical and/or mental health treatment history at one or more of the DHS, DMH and/or Los Angeles Sheriff Department (LASD) facilities, forward a Record Retrieval Request (RRR) to DHS, DMH and LASD and control for the return of medical and/or mental health records.
- **DISABILITY ASSESSMENTS** - DMH clinicians conduct mental health disability assessments and nine contracted health providers (eight of which are federally-qualified health centers) conduct physical health disability assessments to determine a participant's employability status

and initiate the proper referral for the participant. Participants who are determined to be permanently disabled are referred to a DPSS SSIMAP advocate.

- **COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION** - The comprehensive medical/mental health evaluation (implementation scheduled for August 2011) is designed for GR participants who were deemed as "permanently disabled" based on their initial disability assessment; however, this group of GR participants may not have adequate treatment history to support a SSI application; therefore a referral for a comprehensive evaluation is needed in order to provide additional documentation to support their SSI applications.
- **MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS** - SSI Advocacy staff identify GR participants who are in need of medical/mental health treatment to secure medical documentation needed to secure SSI and initiate a referral to DHS/DMH clinics for medical and mental health services.
- **ANCILLARY PAYMENTS** - GR SSIMAP staff issue ancillary payments to GR participants when needed to prepare for SSI-related appointments or to address other SSI-related issues. Allowable ancillary payments include: haircuts/showers; clothing/shoes; and/or other items deemed necessary to improve chances of SSI approval.
- **TRANSPORTATION** - At the initial interview and at each subsequent contact, the SSIMAP Advocate must evaluate the need for transportation funds for any medical or SSI-related appointments.
- **GR HOUSING SUBSIDY AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROJECT** - The GR Housing Subsidy and Case Management Pilot provides a \$400/month rental subsidy to some homeless, GR participants pursuing SSI (as well as some employable GR participants pursuing employment).

OVERVIEW OF THE CAPI SSIAP PROGRAM

The CAPI Program is a cash benefit program for low-income, non-citizen legal immigrants who are 65 and older, are blind, or who have a disability that meets the general eligibility requirements for SSI, but are not eligible for federal Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) because of their immigration status. As CAPI participants' physical conditions, age and/or immigration statuses change, they may become potentially eligible for SSI/SSP and may need help with their SSI disability claims. The CAPI SSIAP is a component of CAPI, which assists these individuals through their SSI application process and works with SSA to expedite SSI approvals for the CAPI participants.

OVERVIEW OF THE CalWORKs SSIAP PROGRAM

The CalWORKs Supplemental Security Income SSI Advocacy Program assists aged, blind, and disabled CalWORKs participants apply for SSI/SSP benefits. Many participants who could be eligible for SSI/SSP have never applied or have become discouraged and have not filed the appropriate appeals because they do not have adequate assistance to help with the application process.

Advocates also assist participants with the reconsideration process (initial appeal level), if the application is denied. Free legal assistance offered by Health Advocates (contracted agency) is available so that participants can have representation during the appeals process (next appeal level), if needed. Social Workers/Advocates are responsible for making participant referrals to Health Advocates.

PERFORMANCE DATA

- SSI APPROVALS

The GR SSIMAP Program has obtained the following number of SSI approvals:

FY 2010-11 (Jul. 10 – Mar. 11)	6,065 (9 months)
FY 2009-10 (Jul. 09 – Jun. 10)	6,687 (12 months)

The CAPI SSIAP Program has obtained the following number of SSI approvals:

FY 2010-11 (Jul. 10 – Mar. 11)	114 (7 months)
FY 2009-10 (Jul. 09 – Jun. 10)	277 (12 months)

The CalWORKs SSIAP Program has obtained the following number of SSI approvals:

FY 2010-11 (Jul. 10 – Mar. 11)	209 (9 months)
FY 2009-10 (Jul. 09 – Jun. 10)	57 (12 months)

- INTERIM ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT (IAR) - When participants are approved for SSI, Los Angeles County is reimbursed for the amount of GR or CAPI paid while the SSI application was pending. The IAR collection rates are as follows:

GR IAR

FY 2010-11 (Jul. 10 – Mar. 11)	\$12,027,559 (9 months)
FY 2009-10 (Jul. 09 – Jun. 10)	\$12,965,602 (12 Months)

CAPI IAR

FY 2010-11 (Jul. 10 – Mar. 11)	\$ 972,558 (9 months)
FY 2009-10 (Jul. 09 – Jun. 10)	\$2,509,725 (12 Months)

NOTE: The CalWORKs Program is not eligible to IAR.

DMH

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES-SSI HOMELESS PROJECT

Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS) works with the DMH clinics to assist the staff in completing the treatment and documentation requirements in order for their SSI-eligible clients to be approved for this benefit.

The MHAS advocates meet the clients at the referring clinics, screen for SSI eligibility, complete all application documents, establish a protective filing date, copy the medical records, request medical and other records, and request a detailed medical report from the treating provider(s) at the respective clinics.

The MHAS advocates file the application with corresponding records and documents at the Social Security Administration field office. After filing, the MHAS advocates maintain contact with the DDSD analyst that is assigned to the particular case and follow-up on any additional requests from the DDSD analyst.

Performance Data

- SSI APPROVALS – The Program has obtained the following number of SSI approvals since January 2009: 500
- SSI DENIALS – The following number of SSI applications have been denied since January 2009: 112
- SSI WITHDRAWALS – The following number of SSI applications have been withdrawn for various reasons since January 2009: 37
- SSI PENDING APPLICATIONS – The following number of SSI applications are pending: 226

DHS**BENEFITS ENTITLEMENTS SERVICES TEAM (BEST)**

The Benefits Entitlement Services Team (B.E.S.T.) started enrolling people in December 2009 and is projected to end in September 2011, with the commitment for one additional year of funding (to 2012) from the Chief Executive Office. This pilot project provides benefits assistance through an innovative multi-disciplinary approach to increase the number of homeless individuals receiving SSI benefits. During the time an individual is enrolled in B.E.S.T., the multidisciplinary team, which includes three case managers, one full-time medical doctor and two to three psychiatrists, work together to provide health, mental health, and case management services focused on documenting eligibility for disability benefits and coordinating the SSI application process.

The B.E.S.T. team coordinates the acquisition of past health and mental health records to ensure thorough and complete SSI applications. While records are being retrieved and reviewed, the B.E.S.T. participant is assessed for other services he/she may need. The project's collaborative partners include, JWCH Institute, Inc. a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which oversees the day-to-day operations of the program, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the State DDSD. Working directly with the SSA and the DDSD has maximized expediency in processing SSI applications and increased approval rates. The B.E.S.T. team has been trained by the SSA and DDSD to provide appropriate support to participants to ensure at least a 75% approval rate on initial application.

Priority Target Populations

- Street-based homeless individuals.
- Shelter-based homeless individuals.
- Homeless individuals living in transitional housing settings or in permanent housing for less than a year.

Main Elements of the Project

- Identify and engage homeless individuals who may be entitled to disability benefits.
- Outreach to homeless individuals living on the streets and in shelters.
- Outreach to public, private and non-profit agencies serving homeless individuals throughout the County.
- Provide a health, mental health, and case management team with expertise in documenting disabilities for the target population.
- Oversee the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)/SSI application process and submission to SSA.

Performance Data

- SSI APPROVALS – The B.E.S.T. Program has obtained the following number of SSI approvals since December 2009:

December 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011 **334**

- SSI APPROVAL RATE – The B.E.S.T. Program's approval rate since December 2009 is:

December 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011 **85%**

- SSI APPROVAL TIME – The B.E.S.T. Program's average approval time since December 2009 is:

December 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011 **4 months from the date of enrollment**

COUNTY SAVINGS RESULTING FROM GR SSI ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The GR Restructuring efforts are designed to reduce the caseload and expenditures over time. One aspect of GR Restructuring involves enhancing the County's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy efforts. This will assist in reducing the caseload by transitioning GR participants to the SSI program, while at the same time generating interim assistance reimbursement (IAR) for GR benefits paid to the individuals during the time the SSI application was pending approval.

The following enhancements to the GR SSI Advocacy Program are currently in place or underway to assist GR participants in transitioning to SSI:

Enhanced Medical/Mental Health Disability Assessments and Comprehensive Evaluations – Providing enhanced medical and mental health assessments to better determine and identify those GR participants who are potentially eligible to SSI; including:

- Mental Health Assessments (Implemented in October 2010);
- Physical Health Disability Assessments (Implemented in May 2011);
- Mental Health Comprehensive Evaluations (To be implemented in August 2011); and
- Physical Health Disability Comprehensive Evaluations (To be implemented in August 2011).

Record Retrieval Services – Working with the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to retrieve medical and mental health records on behalf of GR participants to support their disability claim for SSI.

GR Housing Subsidies for homeless individuals Pursuing SSI

- Increase the number of subsidies so that all homeless GR participants pursuing SSI are offered a subsidy by December 2014.
- Increase the GR rental subsidy amount from \$300 to \$400/month (plus \$100/month from the participant's GR grant).
- Interim Assistance Reimbursement for housing subsidy payments to GR participants approved for SSI.

SSI Advocacy Case Management Enhancements

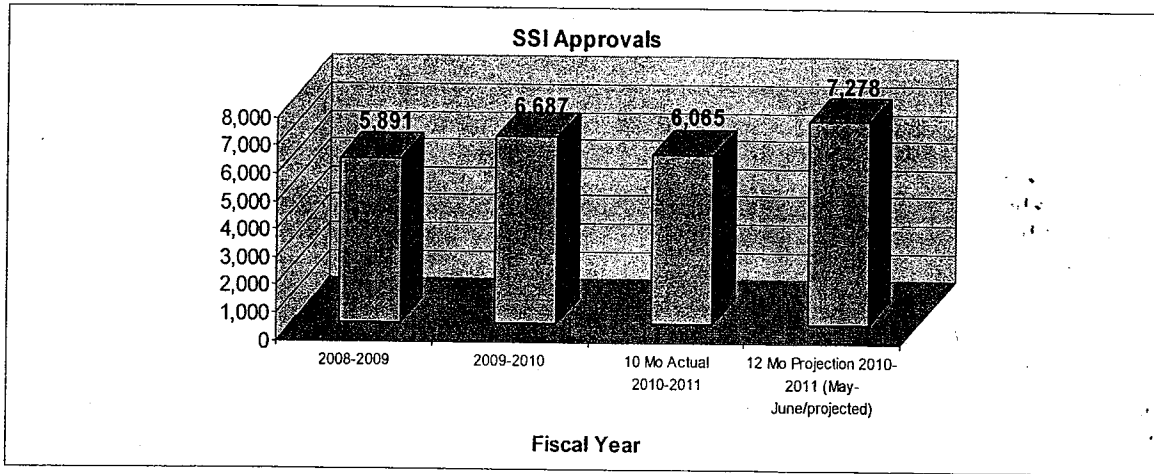
- SSI Advocates now have more flexibility to outreach to GR participants by conducting home visits, etc.;
- Strengthen existing collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA);
- Incorporated the SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) approach into DPSS SSI Advocacy Program; and
- Additional training from SSA for DPSS SSI Advocacy Program staff in SSI requirements and the disability determination process.

Ancillary Payments – Providing ancillary payments for showers, shoes, clothes, motel voucher for the night prior to an appointment with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to assist GR participants in eliminating barriers and enable them to pursue SSI.

Performance Data

The charts below illustrate the early success of the GR SSI Advocacy enhancements.

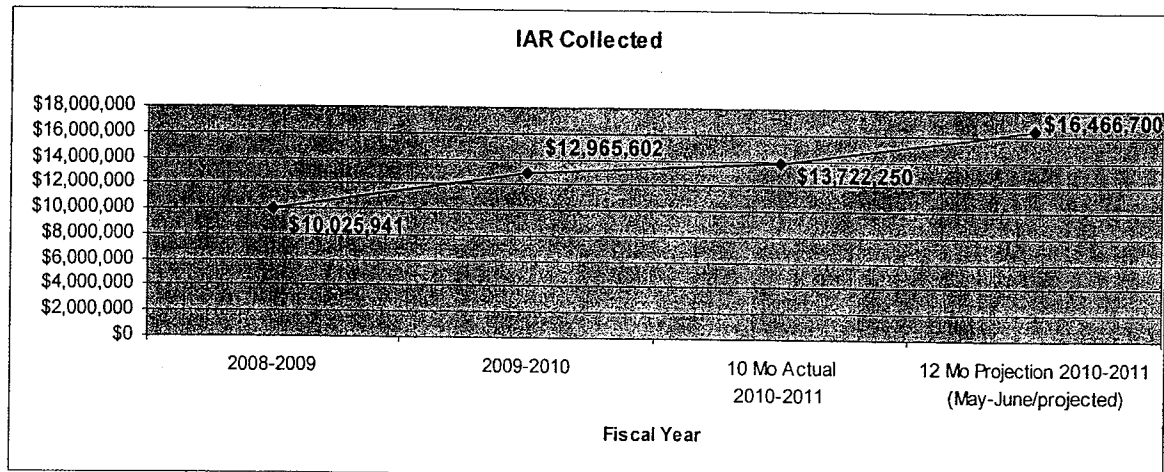
Figure 1



The graph labeled Figure 1, shows that the County obtained 5,891 SSI approvals in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09. It obtained 6,687 SSI approvals in the FY 2009-10 (a 14% increase in SSI approvals over FY 2008-09).

In the current FY 2010-11, the County is projected to obtain 7,278 SSI approvals (a 9% increase in SSI approvals over FY 2009-10).

Figure 2



The graph labeled Figure 2, shows that the County was able to collect over \$10 million in Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) in FY 2008-09. It collected over \$12.9 million in IAR in the FY 2009-10 (a 29% increase in IAR over the previous year). The County is projected to collect approximately \$16.5 million (a 27% increase in IAR over the previous year) in the current FY 2010-11.

Finally, from January to December 2010, 55% of GR SSI determinations at the application level were approvals, which substantially exceeds the estimated approval rate of 48% at the application level for January to December 2009 (before GR Restructuring) and the 50% application approval target for FY 2010-11 approved by your Board on February 9, 2010, as a part of GR Restructuring.

It is clear that the County is seeing some success with moving GR participants to SSI. Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate an upward trend in SSI Approvals and IAR collection, respectively, over a span of the last three Fiscal Years. At the same time, the full effect of GR Restructuring on SSI approvals is not yet evident, since various enhancements have been recently implemented or are still pending implementation.